

# WE ARE FAMILY!



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Easter 3

## Call to Worship

We are God's family,  
all of us together  
regardless of where we live  
or what we look like.

**Let us join together as a family  
united to worship God.**

## Prayers

God, our loving parent,  
you have shown us your love and compassion  
calling us into relationship with each other,  
yet there are so many times  
when we have failed to live as your children  
or have lived as if we are a dysfunctional family.

When we have argued  
and squabbled among ourselves  
like small children  
who have not yet learnt to deal with conflict,  
God our parent,

**Forgive us.**

When we have treated your adopted children  
as second-class family members  
and not as your beloved children,  
God our parent,

**Forgive us.**

When we have seen ourselves  
as the favoured one  
because of our achievements,  
or our relationships,  
or simply just because,  
God our parent,

**Forgive us.**

Help us to be your grown-up children  
walking in your footsteps  
and living your values  
in our lives.

**Amen**

### Words of Assurance

Like any parent,  
God helps us to start again.

As we face up to our short-comings,  
reflect on our learning  
and seek again to live out God's values  
in our lives,  
we come back into relationship with God.

Know that you are forgiven:

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,  
as we reflect on what it means  
to truly be a part of your family,  
we pray for the needs  
of our brothers and sisters –  
or at least,  
the needs we know about.

We pray for those who are like small children,  
who have a lot of growing up to do,  
or think they are grown up  
and yet continue in immaturity.

We pray for those who do not feel protected  
whose hurts have been created or amplified  
by the actions or inactions of this family.

We pray for those outside the family  
who have been hurt by our family

closing ranks against others.

We pray for any of God's family  
with whom we have argued  
and like children having a fight,  
we have said hurtful things.

We pray for any who are carrying  
secret hurts or pains  
that they do not feel able to share  
or that we discourage from sharing.

We pray for all your beloved children,  
remembering that you loved not just the world,  
but the cosmos,  
and therefore we pray for all our fellow humans,  
and fellow creatures on planet earth.  
Amen.

### Benediction & Blessing

We go out into our world  
to love all of God's family,  
and more than that,  
with God, to love all of creation.

**We go out to share God's love  
and, in doing so, we worship God.**